

Appl. No. 10/696,235
Amdt. Dated August 30, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 7, 2005

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action initially mailed on March 1, 2005 -- and re-mailed on April 7, 2005 to address the disposition of Claims 32-35 in the present application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for precisely addressing these Claims.

As an initial matter, the Examiner objected to the language and format of the Abstract as filed. By this amendment, Applicant respectfully avers that the currently amended Abstract overcomes the present objection.

Applicant submits an Information Disclosure Statement -- together with the present Amendment -- and requests that the Examiner consider these references for the next Office Action.

Claims 1-35 were originally presented in this application.

From the Office Action, Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has noted that Claims 7-11, 24-27 and 32-35 appear allowable over the prior art of record.

Without addressing any of the particulars of the Examiner's basis for rejecting Claims 1-6, 12-23, and 28-31, Applicant presently cancels Claims 1-6, 12-23, and 28-31 and makes the appropriate amendments to place Claims 7-11, 24-27 and 32-35 in

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condition for allowance. The amendments to Claims 7, 10, 24, 27, 32 and 35 are merely intended by Applicant to copy intervening Claims to place them in condition for allowance and no change in scope of these Claims is intended by Applicant.

If these Claims are allowed on the next Office Action, Applicant reserves all rights to re-file all of the presently canceled Claims and preserves all arguments for their allowability in any subsequent continuation application.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending Claims are patentable over the cited art of record and are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejection and pass this application to allowance.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite the allowance of the claims, the Examiner is invited to contact Stuart P. Kaler at (707) 824-2487.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 30 Aug 2005

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